MARVEL LEGACY

THANOS WINS

15

THANOS®

CATES
SHAW
FABELA

A total obsession with power drives him. . . to control the forces of the universe.
He is the Mad Titan. He is. . .

THANOS

Thanos has been dragged to the end of time by the mad Cosmic Ghost Rider, and has come face-to-face with himself — King Thanos, the final conqueror. Despite his victory, King Thanos sustained a loss that he cannot bear: that of his only love, Death. And now he demands the help of his younger self to win her back.

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THE GHOST RIDER'S PENANCE STARE IS SAID TO BE THE GREAT DEMONIC EQUALIZER.

FOR NO MATTER HOW LARGE THE SIN, OR HOW POWERFUL THE SINNER, TO STARE INTO THE GAZE OF THE RIDER IS TO KNOW ABSOLUTE SORROW AND DESPAIR.

IT DELIVERS BACK UPON THOSE WHO FALL UNDER ITS THRALL EVERY MOMENT OF TORTURE AND PAIN ITS VICTIM HAS UNLEASHED UPON THE INNOCENT.

FOR MANY, THE RIDER'S PENANCE IS THE LAST THING THEY EVER SEE.

FOR SO POWERFUL IS THE REGRET, AND SO HEAVY IS THE WOE, THAT THEY **CARVE OUT THEIR OWN EYES...**

...LEST THEY EVER SLEEP, OR BE FORCED TO SEE INTO THEIR OWN SHRIVELED BLACK HEARTS, EVER AGAIN...

BUT THEN, OF COURSE, THERE IS THANOS.

FOR HIM, IT REVEALS ACTS SO VILE AND WRETCHED THAT WE CANNOT EVEN BEAR TO SHOW THEM TO YOU HERE.

FOR THEY ARE HIS HIDDEN THINGS. HIS DARKEST DEEDS. THINGS SO... HEINOUS THAT IF YOU WERE TO WITNESS THEM, YOU WOULD (AND PERHAPS SHOULD) STOP READING THIS TALE OF OURS AT ONCE.

YES. FOR THANOS, THE STARE IS A COLD REMINDER OF THE UNCOUNTED LIVES HE HAS DESTROYED AND LEFT UNBURIED IN THE PURSUIT OF HIS ONE TRUE LOVE.

AN ENDLESS BLACK SYMPHONY COMPOSED BY HANDS AND TEETH THROUGH TIME.

A LOVE LETTER WRITTEN IN BLOOD AND THEN SPILLED, UNREAD AND UNWANTED, ACROSS THE STARS.

FOR OUR MAD TITAN, THE GHOST RIDER'S PENANCE STARE IS THE MOST HAUNTING SPIRITUAL JOURNEY HE WILL EVER ENCOUNTER...

BUT NOT FOR THE REASONS YOU MAY THINK. YOU SEE, THESE ARE **NOT** THANOS' DARKEST SECRETS AND REGRETS...

NO, FOR HIM...

...THEY ARE HIS FONDEST MEMORIES.

BEAUTIFUL.

EXHILARATING, IS IT NOT?

YES.

IT IS. YOU DO THIS EVERY MORNING?

MMMM, I SEE WHY YOU KEEP THIS IDIOT DEMON AROUND.

Y'KNOW, I CAN STILL HEAR YOU.

SO, TELL ME, KING THANOS... WHAT SHALL WE DO NOW?

HEY, COME ON, MAN! BE CAREFUL, YA @#$%--

NOW, WE HAVE BREAKFAST.

NO.

THAT SEAT IS TAKEN.

AH...

SO, WHERE IS SHE, THEN?

MMM... I DO NOT KNOW.

SURELY YOU DID NOT DRAG ME ACROSS TIME IN AN EFFORT TO PLAY AT RIDDLES. IF YOU KNOW SOMETHING, SPIT IT OUT OR STOP WASTING--

I HAVE KILLED ALMOST EVERY LIVING THING IN THE KNOWN GALAXY, BOY!

I HAVE GIVEN HER... *EVERYTHING.* BUT... STILL...

THERE IS YET ONE BEING THAT HAS ELUDED ME. ONE FINAL FOE. I HAVE BROUGHT YOU HERE TO HELP ME KILL THIS THING.

ONLY THEN WILL SHE COME TO ME. ONLY THEN WILL SHE BE MINE.

AND JUST WHO IS THIS FOE?

WHO COULD POSSIBLY STIR SO MUCH FEAR IN THE HEART OF THE GREAT KING TITAN THAT HE WOULD RIP TIME APART TO ASK FOR HELP?

THE FALLEN ONE.

YOU...

...CANNOT BE SERIOUS.

YOU BROUGHT ME ALL THIS WAY TO HELP YOU FIGHT SOME FORGOTTEN HERALD?

CAREFUL... I CERTAINLY DID NOT BRING YOU HERE TO ARGUE WITH ME, BOY.

THE FALLEN ONE IS NEAR.

AT ITS CURRENT SPEED, IT WILL ARRIVE TONIGHT, SHORTLY AFTER THE SUN FALLS.

I MUST PREPARE MYSELF FOR THE COMING BATTLE.

WAIT. YOU WILL EXPLA--

I SUGGEST YOU DO THE SAME.

HEY, UH... LOOK, HE GETS LIKE THAT. DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY, BIG GUY.

OH! HEY, YOU KNOW WHAT?

I GOTTA GO FEED THE DOG. YOU WANNA COME WITH?

SNAP

I AM CURIOUS...

IT WAS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE RIDER ONLY PUNISHED THE WICKED. YOU SEEM A RATHER...ODD COMPANION FOR ME.

I DO NOT.

YEAH, WELL, YOU SIT IN A BARBER CHAIR LONG ENOUGH YER GONNA GET A HAIRCUT, YOU KNOW?

RIGHT. I, UH--I JUST MEAN...YEAH, I USED TO ONLY PUNISH BAD GUYS...

BUT, Y'KNOW, HANGING AROUND *YOU* FOR AS LONG AS I HAVE...

...IT CHANGES YOU.

I MEAN, EVERYONE'S GOT A LITTLE DARKNESS IN 'EM RIGHT?

OOF, YOU SHOULDA HEARD THE @#$% THAT CAME OUTTA STEVE ROGERS' MOUTH WHEN WE FED HIM TO THE DOG HERE... MAN, OH, MAN--

...ROGERS?

--OR LIKE, HELL, TAKE ME, RIGHT?

K-KILL?

I USED TO BE A TOTALLY DIFFERENT GUY. ALL BROODY AND DARK AND MYSTERIOUS-LIKE. REAL DOWNER.

IF YOU'D MET ME BACK IN THE DAY, YOU WOULDA NEVER RECOGNIZED ME. AND I DON'T JUST MEAN BECAUSE OF ALL THE MELTED FACE, FLAMING SKULL STUFF, NEITHER.

SOME TIME IN HELL, A FEW HUNDRED YEARS AS A HERALD OF GALACTUS, AND A COUPLE MILLION MORE HANGING OUT WITH YOU... IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE A FELLA GO PRETTY HILARIOUSLY INSANE.

KILL... HULK?

RIDER... DO I...KNOW YOU?

AH, GAH, LOOK HOW RUDE I'M BEING...

FRANK CASTLE.

I DO NOT KNOW THE NAME.

PFFT, FIGURES.

ARE YOU WATCHING, MY LOVE?

DO YOU SEE WHAT I HAVE DONE FOR YOU? DO YOU SEE WHAT I AM PREPARED TO KILL TO BE--

OLD MAN!

ENOUGH! THANOS WAITS FOR NO ONE!

NOT EVEN *THANOS!*

YOU LEAVE ME TO PLAY ERRAND BOY WITH YOUR FOOL SERVANT WHILE YOU LAZE AWAY PLAYING DRESS-UP IN SOME--

SILENCE!

I HAVE SUFFERED MORE THAN ENOUGH OF YOUR IMPATIENCE AND DISRESPECT IN MY OWN HALLS, BOY!

BUT NOT HERE! NOT IN HER TEMPLE!

ONE MORE INSOLENT WORD FROM YOU AND I WILL OPEN YOUR THROAT AND KILL US BOTH.

THIS IS SURTUR'S TWILIGHT. THE SWORD OF DOOM.

IT CERTAINLY USED TO BE.

I SEE MY TEMPER BURNS AS EVER IN MY DODDERING OLD AGE.

ON OCCASION, YES. THE EDGE OF WAR IS ALMOST UPON US, AND I AM...

SCARED?

ANXIOUS TO BE RID OF YOU.

...I DO APOLOGIZE FOR MY TONE, LORD THANOS.

IT'S JUST THAT YOU ARE RATHER A DISAPPOINTMENT TO ME. SURELY YOU MUST UNDERSTAND...

...I COME FROM A TIME WHERE I HAVE RENOUNCED THE BLACK LADY. I AM NO LONGER HER FOOL. AND TO COME HERE AND SEE YOU STILL PINING AFTER--

HA!

IS THAT RIGHT? TELL ME THEN, WHEN YOU LOOKED INTO THE RIDER'S EYES THIS MORNING, WHAT DID YOU SEE STARING BACK AT YOU?

I THOUGHT SO. YOU WERE ALWAYS HER FOOL, BOY. *ALWAYS* WILL BE. YOU THINK YOU HAVE GIVEN HER UP...

...BUT *NO ONE* WALKS AWAY FROM DEATH.

NOT EVEN YOU.

AND WHEN EXACTLY WAS THE LAST TIME YOU SAW YOUR GREAT LOVE?

OH, HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO? THOUSANDS? I DON'T RECALL TIME ANYMORE...

IT WAS...AFTER I KILLED THAT GOLD-SKINNED BOY... WHAT WAS HIS NAME? AARON SOMETHING?

...ADAM?

AH...YES, PERHAPS IT WAS.

SHE WAS... WAITING FOR ME AFTER THE BATTLE.

BUT, SHE... JUST STOOD THERE. NOT SAYING A WORD. AS IF SHE WERE WAITING FOR SOMETHING...

SOMETHING... MORE.

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS... IT TOOK ME SO LONG TO SEE IT.

I GAVE HER EVERYTHING...

MY ENEMIES... MY ALLIES... MY CHILDREN...

EVERYTHING.

AND YET...

WHAAAM-WHAAAM

WHAAAM-
WHAAAM

BOOM

WHAAAM-
WHAAAM

WHAT IS THIS?!

I TOLD YOU, BOY. I DID NOT BRING YOU TO THE END OF THE WORLD FOR CONVERSATION.

IT IS TIME.

THE FALLEN ONE IS HERE.

WHAAAM-
WHAAAM

WHAAAM-
WHAAAM

LOOK AT YOU! TREMBLING AT SOME LOST HERALD!

WHAAAM-
WHAAAM

WHAT HAVE I BECOME?!

WHAAAM-
WHAAAM

HOW FAR HAS THANOS FALLEN TO NEED ARMOR AND A BLADE TO FACE SUCH A PATHETIC FOE AS *THE FALLEN ONE*?!

OH...YES...I SUPPOSE YOU WOULDN'T KNOW, WOULD YOU...

BOY, YOU HAVE NEVER FACED THIS FOE. NOT LIKE THIS...

WHAAAM-
WHAAAM

WHAAAM-
WHAAAM

THE FALLEN ONE IS NOT A BEING, NOT A MAN...

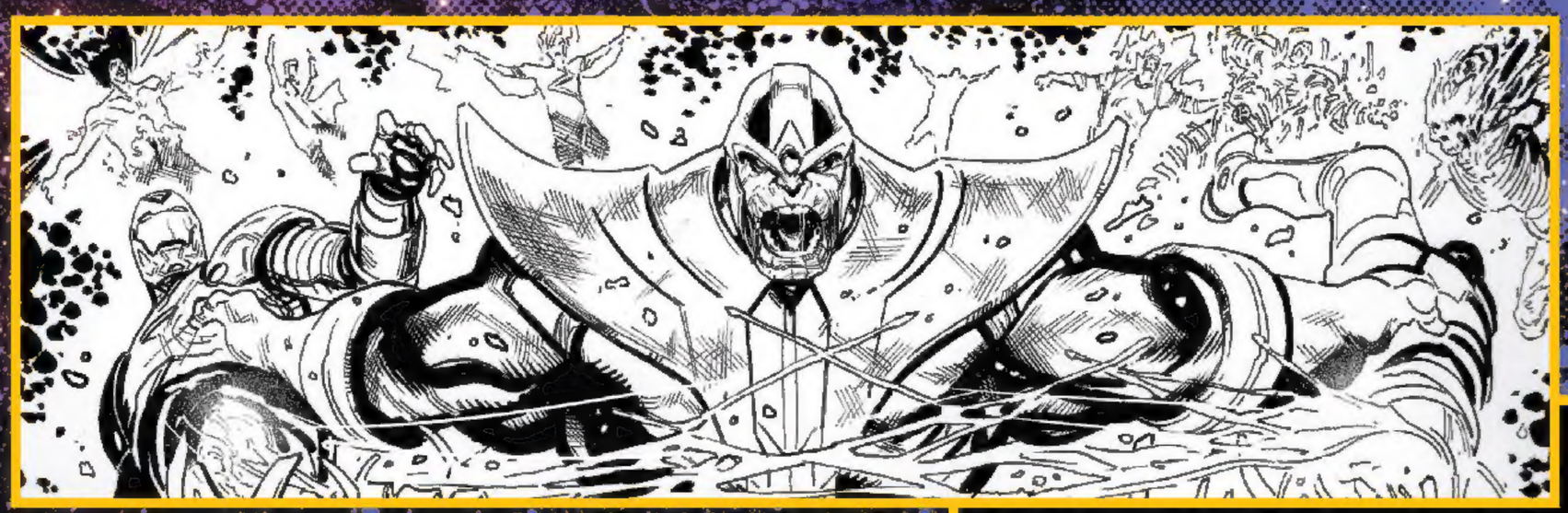
"...IT IS A TITLE."

TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT ISSUE:

THANOS #16

A HISTORY OF HEROES...



...AND THEIR RUIN.

HOW FRANK CASTLE BECAME...

...THE COSMIC GHOST RIDER.

ZONE